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Web Audio: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2006/unemployment/multimedia/feb06_state_lmi_032306.mp3

FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Adjusted Data

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in February. Wisconsin's rate is unchanged when compared to February 2005. The nation's seasonally adjusted rate was also 4.8 percent in February, down from 5.4 percent in February 2005. In January 2006, Wisconsin's rate was 4.5 percent.

Unadjusted Data

Wisconsin's preliminary unadjusted unemployment rate for February, at 5.7 percent, is the lowest unemployment rate for the month since February 2001. February's rate is up from January's estimated 5.0 percent rate. Wisconsin's labor force has 28,500 more employed and 5,100 fewer unemployed residents compared to February 2005. The February 2006 unemployment rate is two-tenths of a percentage point lower than February 2005.

"With the lowest February unemployment rate in five years, nearly 28,500 more people working and some 5,100 fewer unemployed in Wisconsin than one-year-ago, we have strong evidence that the state's labor market is moving in a positive direction," Secretary Gassman said.

Wisconsin's nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates posted a preliminary total of 2,807,900 jobs in February. February's total is 11,500 jobs higher than January's. The majority of this net gain in the Service Producing Sector was centered in state and local government employment, reflecting an increase in educational institutions' employment after the holiday break. Construction and manufacturing employment decreased over the month by 1,300 jobs and 1,000 jobs, respectively, yet both sectors show significant growth annually. Manufacturing employment is 4,000 jobs higher than in February 2005, and construction payrolls have increased by 10,600 jobs. The state's overall job total is 41,900 jobs higher than last February's total.

February employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available March 29, 2006. This release also is available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/>.

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	NET CHANGE FROM				
	PRELIM. FEB 06	FINAL JAN 06	YEAR AGO FEB 05	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA					
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3042.3	3033.9	3018.9	8.4	23.4
UNEMPLOYMENT	173.7	153.0	178.8	20.7	-5.1
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.7	5.0	5.9	0.7	-0.2
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2868.6	2880.9	2840.1	-12.3	28.5
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY					
TOTAL PRIVATE	2807.9	2796.4	2766	11.5	41.9
GOODS PRODUCING	2383.7	2384.9	2344.2	-1.2	39.5
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	625.9	628.1	611.3	-2.2	14.6
CONSTRUCTION	3.3	3.2	3.3	0.1	0.0
MANUFACTURING	120.1	121.4	109.5	-1.3	10.6
Durable Goods	502.5	503.5	498.5	-1.0	4.0
Nondurable Goods	316.4	316.8	313	-0.4	3.4
SERVICE PROVIDING	186.1	186.7	185.5	-0.6	0.6
TRADE	2182.0	2168.3	2154.7	13.7	27.3
Wholesale Trade	424.8	428.6	420.9	-3.8	3.9
Retail Trade	116.1	116.4	114.7	-0.3	1.4
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	308.7	312.2	306.2	-3.5	2.5
Utilities	102.7	102.2	105.8	0.5	-3.1
INFORMATION	11.3	11.3	11.4	0.0	-0.1
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	48.9	48.7	49.4	0.2	-0.5
Finance and Insurance	157.2	156.6	157.7	0.6	-0.5
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	130	129.3	130.8	0.7	-0.8
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	27.2	27.3	26.9	-0.1	0.3
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	253	252.5	251.6	0.5	1.4
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	90	88.8	92.7	1.2	-2.7
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Servs	41.1	41.3	40.8	-0.2	0.3
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	121.9	122.4	118.1	-0.5	3.8
Educational Services	388.6	387.3	379.1	1.3	9.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	51	49.6	48.2	1.4	2.8
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	337.6	337.7	330.9	-0.1	6.7
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	248.4	247.6	233.9	0.8	14.5
Accommodation & Food Services	29.3	29.3	27.8	0.0	1.5
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	219.1	218.3	206.1	0.8	13.0
GOVERNMENT	134.2	133.3	134.5	0.9	-0.3
Federal Government	424.2	411.5	421.8	12.7	2.4
State Government	28.8	28.9	29.1	-0.1	-0.3
Local Government	107.9	103.1	103.9	4.8	4.0
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	287.5	279.5	288.8	8.0	-1.3
(1) Includes L-M Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
UNEMPLOYMENT	3066.1	3061.3	3041.3	4.8	24.8
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	147.1	137.2	146.9	9.9	0.2
EMPLOYMENT	4.8	4.5	4.8	0.3	0.0
	2919.1	2924.1	2894.5	-5.0	24.6

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information